

Written Testimony
Mary Consoli,
President, Danbury Nurses' Union Unit #47
AFT Local 5047, AFL-CIO

To Representative Betsey Ritter, Senator Terry B. Gerrantano
And members of the Public Health Committee

Re: Raised S.B 414 An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Certification or signature

March 16, 2012

I am President of Danbury Nurses' Union, a labor organization representing 650 nurses, which includes, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this Bill. I am asking you to please support Raised Senate Bill 414. This Bill will facilitate access to care and cut costs by giving APRNs the ability to sign forms that they are unable to sign at this time. It will eliminate the need for a patient to schedule a second office visit with their physician and streamline the process of an admission to a health care facility.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) provides provisions that will further access to care of the increasing members of an aging population. The Affordable Care Act emphasizes the need for better access to primary care. However, the supply of Primary Care Physicians' has decreased. Physicians are choosing the more lucrative specialty practices and are not entering primary care field. The more than 125,000 advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who practice in the United States, provide a readily available solution. In Connecticut they are already in the primary care work force.

A successful transition of the country's health care system will require use of all clinicians, to the full extent of their education and scope of practice. Connecticut APRNs' have proven they are highly qualified clinicians who provide cost-effective, accessible, patient-centered care and provide the range of services at the heart of the health care reform movement. They provide care coordination, chronic care management and wellness and preventive care. We need to remove the barriers prohibiting APRNs from practicing to the fullest extent of their scope of practice. S.B 414 will do just that. This legislation is an idea whose time has come.

The Affordable Care Act, like many federal laws, is long and complex. The details are left up to federal agencies as well as States, to issue rules and regulations to carry out its policies and create its programs. Connecticut has been a leader in recognizing the need of health care reform, positioning itself well for the future. S.B 414 is an example of continuing our progress of increasing access to health care and containing costs for the people of Connecticut. Again, I ask you to please support Raised Senate Bill 414.

Sincerely,

Mary Consoli, RN, BSN